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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Max W. Gardner, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, has been appointed instructor in plant pathology in the University of Michigan.

F. D. Heald has been appointed head of the new department of plant pathology recently established by the regents of the State College of Washington.

W. J. Spillman, of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been appointed dean of the newly created college of agriculture at the State College of Washington, where he will enter upon his duties on April first.

J. E. Fries, of Birmingham, Alabama, called at the Garden on January 21 with a handsome specimen of the parasitic gill-fungus, *Asterophora Clavus*, preserved in alcohol, which he donated to the Garden collection. While here, he took a full subscription to *North American Flora*.

A number of appointments have recently been made at the Bureau of Plant Industry in Washington: R. A. Jehle, from Florida; J. K. K. Link, from the University of Nebraska; J. C. Walker, from the University of Wisconsin; W. W. Diehl, from Clemson College, South Carolina; D. C. Neal, from Alabama; and H. F. Bergman, from the University of Minnesota.

Phytopathology is now to appear monthly, at \$5.00 a year. The January number, issued late in January, is very handsome and gives promise of even greater success for this important publication.

Several leaf-spot diseases of economic plants in Porto Rico were described by L. E. Miles in the October number of *Phytopathology*.

Chrysomyxa Weirii on *Picea Englemanii*, and *Melampsora occidentalis* on species of poplar were described as new by H. S. Jackson in the October number of *Phytopathology*.

A brief and interesting review of an article by Naumov on "Intoxicating Bread" appeared in the October number of *Phytopathology*, under the authorship of Michael Shapovalov.

A specimen of *Sebacina spongiosa*, described as new by C. G. Lloyd, has been recently collected at Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, by L. K. Brace and forwarded by him to Dr. Britton for the Garden herbarium.

S. W. Newell reports in the *West Indian Bulletin* that several species of *Rosellinia* cause root diseases in Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, Grenada, and adjacent islands, the plants mostly attacked being cacao, coffee, limes, and arrowroot.

The development of some species of *Pholiota* is discussed by W. H. Sawyer, Jr., in the September number of *The Botanical Gazette*. Three species were used in Mr. Sawyer's experiments, *Pholiota adiposa*, *P. squarrosa*, and *P. flammans*. The paper is illustrated with six plates containing fifty-five figures.

A very important and timely treatise on the control of diseases and insect enemies of the home vegetable garden, by W. A. Orton and F. H. Chittenden, has recently appeared as Farmer's Bulletin 856 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This bulletin consists of 72 pages and 82 figures and contains descriptions and methods of control of all the ordinary diseases and insect pests met with in the vegetable garden.

A twig and leaf disease of *Kerria japonica*, due to *Cocomyces Kerriae* sp. nov., is described at some length by V. B. Stewart in the December number of *Phytopathology*. The disease not only causes a premature fall of the leaves but also affects the shoots, often injuring the bushes to such an extent that they die during the winter. A sulphur fungicide is recommended for checking the disease.

The occurrence of walnut blight in the eastern United States is discussed by S. M. McMurrin in Bulletin 611 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This disease, caused by *Bacterium Juglandis*, has been established on the Pacific coast for some time, where it attacks the Persian walnut. The development of immune or highly resistant varieties is being attempted.

An article on the crown canker disease of roses, with several illustrations, by L. M. Massey, appears in the December number of *Phytopathology*. This disease is caused by *Cylindrocladium scoparium*, which has hitherto been considered a saprophyte and not supposed to occur on roses. No method of control has been discovered, but rose-growers are cautioned to sterilize their soil and use only healthy stock.

John A. Stevenson reports in the December number of *Phytopathology* that a new and alarming cane disease appeared in the western end of Porto Rico two years ago and is still spreading at a rapid rate, with a loss of from ten to fifty per cent. in the crop in two years and a total loss the third year after infection. Continued efforts have been made to ascertain the cause of this mottling disease but without result. All control measures that have been tried have also failed.

Continuing his list of wood-destroying fungi which grow both on coniferous and deciduous trees, James R. Weir lists in the October number of *Phytopathology*, *Daedalea confragosa* on *Abies grandis*, *Daedalea unicolor* on *Abies lasiocarpa*, *Polyporus*

albellus on *Abies grandis*, *Polyporus elegans* on *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Schizophyllum commune* on *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Trametes carnea* on *Arbutus Menziesii*, *Trametes hispida* on *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, *Trametes serialis* on the aspen, and *Trametes variiformis* on *Betula occidentalis*.

Two very important matters discussed at the recent scientific meetings at Pittsburgh were: (1) the problem of disease control in order to increase crops, and (2) the establishment of a Botanical Abstracts Journal. The first has been taken up with zeal by the phytopathologists under Professor H. H. Whetzel, and the second is in the hands of a representative committee, which hopes to begin such a journal this year, under the editorship of Professor B. E. Livingston. Of the one thousand scientists in attendance at Pittsburgh, about two hundred were botanists.

Sparassis radicata is a new species described by J. R. Weir in the June number of *Phytopathology* from Idaho, where it occurs parasitically on the roots of several western conifers. This species is chiefly distinguished by its thin lobes and an unusually large perennial rootstalk, which is of the nature of a sclerotium and from which new sporophores are developed from year to year. The mycelium attacks the bast of the roots and later the wood, producing a yellow or brown, carbonizing rot. The species has been found in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

It is reported by Trumbull and Hotson in the December number of *Phytopathology* that the very attractive forestry building of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at Seattle, which was built of green logs of Douglas fir and western hemlock, has been seriously attacked by *Fomes unguatus*, and that many of the sporophores of this fungus have appeared on the logs used in the building. A heating system was installed to dry the timbers and impregnation of the wood with fungicides was tried, but without result. Roentgen rays were then experimented with, but the effects observed on the fungi were negative.

A very handsome and beautifully illustrated handbook of the Amanitas of the eastern United States, by W. C. Coker, appeared last summer as a double number of the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society*, published at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This handbook contains the results of the work of years in the vicinity of Chapel Hill and other parts of eastern North America. Dr. Coker and his assistants have collected a great many specimens and made excellent notes and photographs of them. Seven species of *Amanitopsis* are recognized and nearly thirty species of *Amanita*, most of them illustrated with halftones. Although some mycologists may not entirely agree with all of Dr. Coker's conclusions, they cannot question his scientific activity and the quality of his photographs.

A very interesting collection of fleshy and woody fungi was recently sent to the Garden for determination by Miss M. McKenny, of Olympia, Washington. The collection contained good dried specimens, colored drawings, complete field notes, and spore prints. Some of the specimens were also dipped in paraffin and sent in a fresh condition; a method which seems to work very well with firm specimens that are not infested with insects. Among the species in this collection, may be mentioned: *Armillaria albolanatipes*, a perfectly sterile form of *Stropharia ambigua*, and a species of *Venenarius* which seems to lie somewhere between *V. pregammatus* and *V. umbrinidiscus*. Miss McKenny also reports having tested *Stropharia ambigua* and found it to be edible; which is a valuable thing to know, since this species is exceedingly abundant on the Pacific coast.